

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Without prejudice, this listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the present application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1-15. (Canceled).

16. (Currently Amended) A system for procuring a service, comprising:

at least one stationary physical server;

a plurality of devices accessible to subscribers including at least one device accessible to suppliers and at least one device accessible to interested parties;

a communications arrangement that enables at least an information exchange between the at least one server and the devices accessible to subscribers;

a positioning arrangement for determining a current position of the devices accessible to subscribers; and

a memory for at least temporarily storing data corresponding to position and route information of the subscribers;

wherein the at least one server is configured to compare transportation requests, ~~which are communicated to the server from at least one device accessible to interested parties,~~ to transportation offerings, ~~which are communicated to the server from at least one device accessible to suppliers,~~ the transportation requests being information communicated to the server from at least one device accessible to interested parties, the transportation offerings being information communicated to the server from at least one device accessible to suppliers,

wherein the at least one server is configured to determine whether any transportation requests match any transportation offerings, and, if there is a match, to communicate the match to ~~the device accessible to interested parties that communicated the matching request if there is a match;~~ and

wherein the transportation offerings include a starting point, a destination point, and intermediate route information; and

wherein the at least one server takes into account the intermediate route information.

17. (Canceled).

18. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in Claim 16, wherein the server is configured to establish a communication link between the device accessible to suppliers that communicated the matching offering and the device accessible to interested parties that communicated the matching request if there is a match.

19. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in Claim 16, wherein the positioning arrangement is configured to determine the current position of the devices accessible to subscribers in real time.

20. (Canceled).

21. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in Claim 16, wherein the server is configured to combine transportation offerings communicated from multiple devices accessible to suppliers to offer an interested party an uninterrupted route.

22. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in Claim 16, wherein the server is configured to determine projected arrival times for positions of a route and communicate the projected arrival times to at least one device accessible to subscribers.

23. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in Claim 16, wherein the transportation offerings are provided in the form of one of a list and a map display containing time information.

24. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in Claim 16, wherein the server is configured to notify at least one device accessible to a subscriber if a supplier has reached a certain position.

25. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in Claim 16, wherein a transportation request includes at least one of a starting point and a destination point, and defines at least one of a starting region and a destination region by including a radius value around at least one of the starting point and the destination point.

26. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in Claim 16, wherein a transportation offering defines a corridor having a predefinable width along a travel route.

27. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in Claim 16, wherein the transportation offerings and transportation requests, when defining departure times and arrival times, define time windows to increase a probability of a match.

28. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in Claim 16, wherein the server is configured to offer a transportation option using a public means of transportation to at least one device accessible to interested parties.

29. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in Claim 16, wherein the server is configured to offer a selection list including alternate transportation offerings to at least one device accessible to interested parties.

30. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in Claim 16, further comprising:
a memory for storing parameters identifying the suppliers and the interested parties.

31. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in Claim 16, wherein the service includes one of a rideshare opportunity and a transportation service.

32. (Currently Amended) A method for procuring a service using at least one stationary physical server and a plurality of devices accessible to subscribers, the method comprising:
exchanging information between the at least one stationary physical server and the plurality of devices accessible to subscribers including at least one device accessible to suppliers and at least one device accessible to interested parties;
determining a current position of the devices accessible to subscribers;
storing data corresponding to position and route information of the subscribers;
comparing transportation requests, communicated to the at least one server from at least one device accessible to interested parties, to transportation offerings, communicated to the at least one server from at least one device accessible to suppliers; and
determining whether any transportation requests match any transportation offerings, and, in the case of a match, communicating the match to the device accessible to interested parties that communicated the matching request;
wherein the transportation offerings include a starting point, a destination point, and intermediate route information, and

wherein the intermediate route information is taken into account in procuring a service.

33. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 32, further comprising:

establishing a communication link between the device accessible to suppliers that communicated the matching offering and the device accessible to interested parties that communicated the matching request if there is a match.

34. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 32, wherein the current position of the devices accessible to subscribers is determined in real time.

35. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 32, wherein transportation offerings communicated from multiple devices accessible to suppliers are combined to offer an interested party an uninterrupted route.

36. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 32, further comprising:

determining projected arrival times for positions of a route; and

communicating the projected arrival times to at least one device accessible to subscribers.

37. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 32, wherein the transportation offerings are provided in the form of one of a list and a map display containing time information.

38. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 32, further comprising:

notifying at least one device accessible to a subscriber if a supplier has reached a certain position.

39. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 32, wherein a transportation request includes at least one of a starting point and a destination point, and defines at least one of a starting region and a destination region by including a radius value around at least one of the starting point and the destination point.

40. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 32, wherein a transportation offering defines a corridor having a predefinable width along a travel route.

41. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 32, wherein the transportation offerings and transportation requests, when defining departure times and arrival times, define time windows to increase a probability of a match.

42. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 32, further comprising:
 offering a transportation option using a public means of transportation to at least one device accessible to interested parties.

43. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 32, further comprising:
 offering a selection list including alternate transportation offerings to at least one device accessible to interested parties.

44. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 32, further comprising:
 storing parameters identifying the suppliers and the interested parties.

45. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 32, wherein the service includes one of a rideshare opportunity and a transportation service.